

Press Release

HARFORD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Department of Community Services



PUBLIC SAFETY

"Ensuring a Safe
Harford"

EDUCATION

"Preparing Now,
Building for the Future"

EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

"Governing Smarter"

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

"Growing and Sustaining
Harford's Prosperity"

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

"Protecting Our
Environment"

QUALITY LIVING

"Safeguarding What is
Important to Harford
County Citizens"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 30, 2009

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HARFORD COUNTY ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM ON DRUG PREVENTION, INTERVENTION AND TREATMENT

(Bel Air, MD) - - "Charting the Course – Weathering the Storm," the 2009 Symposium on Drug Prevention, Intervention and Treatment held on Wednesday, June 24, was a resounding success.

This year's theme was chosen to reflect the added stress that the economy and military deployment has created. The annual Symposium is designed for citizens interested in learning about, and expanding their knowledge on, drug and alcohol addiction, intervention, prevention and treatment. Bringing together social workers and treatment experts, the Symposium presents information and advice on how such things as focusing positively on your life, how to deal with the stress of deployment and coping with the adjustment of coming home, how to find growth in our careers and in life, and an exploration of the stages of grief and how to apply them to the recovery process.

Nearly 300 people came to Patterson Mill Middle High School in Bel Air to attend a day of workshops, local vendors, motivational keynote and plenary addresses on thought-provoking topics.

This year Justin Jones-Fosu, *Justin Inspires*, was the featured Keynote and Plenary Speaker. His Keynote Address, *The Power of Perceptions: What You See is What You Get*, provided an unforgettable look at how to view your life, your surroundings, and ultimately, you. This high-energy and very hilarious event helped participants to look positively at themselves and others, and learn how to become optimistic and have fun in their own life.

Justin Jones-Fosu's Plenary Address focused on living life with your eyes open to your dreams, possibilities and your vision. *Your Vision Unleashed and Uncensored: The Fight for Your Life* was an interactive message to assist participants in, among other things, identifying their true vision, identify factors that are trying to keep them tied down to mediocrity and putting action to their dreams.

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The Symposium also included a series of workshops with topics ranging from *Understanding & Coping with Unexpected Life Events* and *Grieving the Loss of the Drug of Choice to Ripple Effect: Economic Crisis & It's Relationship to Domestic Violence* and *Emotional Bank*, a look at strategies that secure a healthy emotional outlook.

The 2009 Symposium was presented by FACE-IT, in partnership with the Harford County Department of Community Services' Office of Drug Control Policy; Addiction Connections Resource, Inc.; Harford County Public Schools; Harford County Sheriff's Office; and funded by a Drug Free Communities Support Grant. Six Continuing Education Credits (CEUs) were granted for this training.

Thank you to our Vendors:

Addiction Connections Resource, Inc.
Al-Anon/Alateen
Alliance, Inc.
Christian Recovery
FACE-IT
Harford County Department of Social Services
Harford County Family & Children's Services
Harford County Cancer & Tobacco Community Coalition
Harford County Sheriff's Office
Marriage Works of Harford County
Narcotics Anonymous
National Guard Counter Drug Task Force
Office of Mental Health
SARC (Spousal Abuse Resource Center)
United Way of Central Maryland
Y of Central Maryland

Thank you also to Buontempo Brothers for providing boxed lunches.

Faith Activated Community Empowering Intervention Training (FACE-IT) was formed to provide educational intervention through training to prevent substance abuse and combat addictions in Harford County. The group's purpose is to build a community of spiritual healing by empowering and supporting faith and community organizations in their service to people suffering from substance abuse and other addictions through prevention, awareness, education and training.

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The Harford County Department of Community Services was established in 1979 via Executive Order and works daily to meet the needs of our seniors, youth, persons with disabilities and those struggling to overcome addiction. The Department works with federal, state, local and private agencies to ensure our county continues to evolve and remains dedicated to providing the best possible services for our citizens and community.

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“Preserving Harford’s past; promoting Harford’s future”